

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No.228

February 1985

NEXT MEETING

This month we welcome a guest speaker, Tony Gilbey, G4YTG, who will present a talk entitled "Very Low Frequency Antennas". Tony is well known for his service to the amateur radio community in this area from the period he spent with the Radio Investigation Section of B.T. but now his work is primarily concerned with large antenna arrays for professional point to point ground communication. The meeting will start promptly at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5th February at the Marconi College, Arbour Lane and we look forward to a most interesting evening.

In addition to the main event of the evening we will be running a computer program for the new I.A.R.U. (Maidenhead) locator system which came into operation from 1st January. If you do not know your new locator or wish to have it confirmed from your own calculation, the answers will be provided by Ela, G6HKM on her Dragon 64 micro. The calculation is based on National Grid Reference to 6 figures, maps of the local areas will be available but it will save time if you can work this out beforehand.

HF band users may think that this only applies to VHF/UHF operating, not so!, the Maidenhead locator is a worldwide system and capable of pin-pointing your contact within a few kilometres in any direction.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The next committee meeting will be in the bar of the Marconi College at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 13 February, 1985. Please come and join us for a quiet drink and a chat.

VHF CONVENTION - JOHN DONNITHORNE G8MKX

This takes place on the 23rd March 1985 at the Sandown Racecourse. If there is sufficient interest a coach or mini-bus will be organised. The VHF Convention is the VHF/UHF equivalent of the RSGB National Convention and this year features lectures on high power linear amplifiers, vhf front-end design, packet radio, repeaters, radio astronomy, satellite TV etc. The usual small trade stands will be present. If you are interested please let John Donnithorne, G8MKX, or any other Committee Member know.

REPORT ON LAST MONTHS MEETING - ANDREW G4KQE

Despite the foul weather, a fair number of members turned up for the film show. We had a mixed bag of video tapes, 8mm cine film and 35mm slides. The first video film was a Scottish Television production about companies set up in the Border Counties to produce printed circuit boards. The film was entitled "Silicon Valley", but a more appropriate title would have been "Silica Valley", as we did not see many transistors or I.C.'s, but a whole lot of glass fibre! Several small companies had been formed as a result of engineers and technicians leaving large organisations and setting up on their own. Some firms were producing boards for the mass market, whilst others specialized in small batches of development boards for prototypes. The film showed in outline the processes involved to produce printed boards, but unfortunately did not go into intricate details.

The next video film was obtained from the Atomic Energy Department and tried to put in perspective the amounts of Radiation created by Nuclear Power Stations. Radiation is all around us all the time from natural sources, and apparently only a small proportion is man-made. The film went back to the school laboratory and described the basic types of radiation and then followed with some mind boggling statistics and highly sophisticated units of radiation measurement.

Our Chairman, Dick Brocks had brought some 8mm cine film that he had taken of DF and NFD events. There was foolage of NFD as it used to be - erecting the HF quad in Hylands Park! The DF films showed how devious hidden stations can be in selecting inaccessible places to hide, such as on a canal bank - the other side. Although the films were only a few years old, the club membership has changed, and such stalwart members as Bill Pechey, Mike Quee, Dave Elwell and Colin McEwan, all of who have now moved from the area featured on the films and it was good to see them again.

The evening was rounded off in fine style with a show of some of Roy G3PMX's 35mm slides that he has taken recently. Radio featured prominently with views of Roy and Ela's aerial system and their holiday in Northumberland and the Border Region of Scotland -/P of course! We saw a picture of Virginia Brackenbury's yacht, which is now on the other side of the world and some shots Roy took of a hot air balloon event.

Our thanks to all those who set up equipment for the evening and helped to put on an entertaining evening for us all.

SILENT KEYS

Although not in our membership, the Society records with regret the deaths of two well-known radio amateurs.

Mr J. Bickmore, G3RHO.

Jack Bickmore died on 10th January at the age of 81. He was widely known and respected for his consistent operating on Top-band and 2 metres which earned his station the title "The Silver End beacon". Since retiring from the Crittall Company he gained great pleasure from gardening and amateur radio, in fact he was in QSO with one of his old friends up to a few minutes before he died.

Mr R. Wills, G4IXG.

Robert Wills died from a heart attack on 3rd January at the age of 46. He was a keen radio amateur, active on HF and 2 metre mobile. His unexpected death came as a shock to his friends and working colleagues at the Marconi Company.

CLUB NET

The club net on Tuesday evenings (7:15pm on S11, 145.275MHz) is still going well but deserves more support. No-one has mentioned any difficulties with the choice of frequency or time.

DF NEWS - Dick G3WHR

A bit too cold for DF at the moment, however, planning for the new season is under way. Once again we have been asked to organise a National Qualifying Event on behalf of the R.S.G.B. Dates for the new season should be in next months newsletter.

HERE & THERE

Ron, G4VF has now moved from Chelmsford, we were all sorry to hear of the misfortune of his wife Joan who fell and broke her hip and wrist just before the move. Ron has kindly donated some goodies from his shack to the Society for auction, which will appear in the near future. We wish Ron and Joan every happiness in their new QTH.

Virginia and her family on their yacht "Kiwa" are now in New Zealand, Christmas was spent with her Mother, Sister, Son and Daughter in Auckland, whilst husband Mark flew back to the UK to see his Mother. They should now be together again sightseeing around the South Island (lucky people). Virginia's recovery from her accident in Gibraltar has been a slow one, she was in fact flown out to New Zealand and eventually joined up with the family again in Tahiti last August and had a marvellous 3 months sailing down through the French Polynesian Islands, Cook Islands and Tonga, arriving in New Zealand late November. I wonder where her next letter will be posted from?

The social event at the Rose & Crown, Writtle on the 26th January was most enjoyable, a group of 31, made up of members, their wives and guests enjoyed the menu of the "Barnaby Carvery". Our thanks to the members of the Committee who helped to organise the event and to Dick our Chairman for remembering!

Its not too early to give a plug for the C.A.R.S. Constructors Competition. The long dark evenings are still with us, providing the opportunity to start that prize winning project.

73,
Ela, G6HKM and Roy, G3PMX,
(Ian, G4BYR, will be back next month).

(0279) 441244 (ex.307) (day)
Harlow 33049 (any other time)

40 Great Leylands,
Harlow, CM18 6HR.

FOR SALE

FRG7 receiver £100. Property of Mr.J.S.Dodds. Contact Dick Brocks G3WHR.

FOR SALE

Yaesu FT200/FP200 HF,SSB/CW/AM, Transceiver. G3LLL RF clipper. Spare PA's. All 10m xtals fitted. £200 o.n.o. Martin G4TOD (Chelmsford B4485).

WANTED (Repeat request)

Has anyone a suitable indicating meter (3 off required)? The specification is:- plug-in, 2"round, 1"deep, 3/16"pins set on a diameter with 1"centre spacing. Meter resistance and FSD are unknown but the wavemeters have a built-in cartridge diode of WW2 vintage similar to 1N21 series, hence FSD probably about 1mA. John Greenwood, G3KRZ, 01-357-4248.